

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00

ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /136 W

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TAGS: UNDP, TCDC, EAID

SUBJECT: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR CONFERENCE ON TCDC,
JAN 10-14, 1977 FOURTH DAY.

REFERENCE: USUN 95

1. SUMMARY: PREPCOM COMPLETED BUREAU WITH ELECTION OF FINN AS VICE CHAIRMAN REPRESENTING WEO GROUP AND EGYPTIAN AS RAPPORTEUR. MORNING SESSION DEVOTED TO FORMAL STATEMENTS BY 13 DELEGATIONS AND ILO. WORKING GROUP MET IN AFTERNOON FOR DETAILED EXAMINATION OF CONFERENCE BUDGET AND AGENDA. MEETING SUSPENDED AT 7:30 P.M. TO BE CONTINUED FRIDAY. COMMITTEE PLANS MONDAY SESSION TO CONSIDER REPORT. WHILE MANY RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERNING LAVISHNESS OF BUDGET, LIKELIHOOD IS THAT IT WILL BE FORWARDED UNCHANGED TO ACABQ.

2. THE WEO GROUP WAS PLEASED THAT FINLAND REVERSED ITS POSITION AND AGREED THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVE, BENJAMIN BASSIN, COULD STAND FOR VICE PRESIDENT. THE CONTEST BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE AND EGYPT WAS ALSO RESOLVED IN FAVOR OF THE CANDIDACY OF MRS. GILLANE ALLAM, SECOND SECRETARY OF THE EGYPTIAN MISSION, FOR RAPPORTEUR. BOTH
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NOMINEES WERE DULY ELECTED.

3. THE GENERAL DEBATE PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. LDC REPRESENTATIVES ENDORSED THE AGENDA, BUDGET AND DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED OR PROMISED BY THE TCDC SPECIAL UNIT OF UNDP. DELEGATES FROM THE LARGER DONOR COUNTRIES TENDED TO HAVE RESERVATIONS WITH SWEDEN CALLING FOR A

CLARIFICATION OF THE CONCEPT OF TCDC AND FRANCE EMPHASIZING THAT TCDC BE UNDERSTOOD AS A CONCEPT RATHER THAN AN INSTITUTION. FRANCE ALSO FOUND THAT PROPOSED BUDGET "INTOLLERABLE" FOR IGNORING UNGA AND ACABQ LIMITATIONS. MANY SPOKESMEN CALLED UPON THE SECRETARIAT TO PRODUCE A DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE 2ND PREPCOM (JUNE, 1977). ONLY ARGENTINA TESTED THE INTELLECTUALISM OF THE COMMITTEE BY URGING A "CARTESIAN" ANALYSIS OF TCDC.

4. THE PREPCOM MET AS A WORKING GROUP IN THE AFTERNOON UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF FINNISH VICE CHAIRMAN AND ENGAGED IN DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET DESPITE EFFORTS BY THE UNDP STAFF MEMBERS AND SOME DELEGATES TO DEFLECT SUCH A APPROACH. THERE WAS MUCH CRITICISM BY DONOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "LAVISHNESS" OF BUDGET ITEMS WHILE MOST LDC SPOKESMEN TENDED TO AGREE WITH THE SECRETARIAT CONTENTION THAT THE ALLOCATIONS WERE MINIMAL. MOST CRITICIZED WAS THE INFORMATION SUPPORT PROGRAM WHICH DREW FIRE FROM CANADA, FINLAND, FRANCE, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, POLAND, AND UK AS WELL AS FROM THE US DEL. BY CONTRAST, IT WAS UNCRITICALLY SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA AND NETHERLANDS.

5. INITIAL EXAMINATION OF THE BUDGET WAS COMPLETED AT 7:30 P.M.; WHEREUPON THE WG DECIDED TO RESUME FRIDAY MORNING WITH A REVIEW OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA. IT IS PROPOSED THAT A PRECOM PLENARY BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE WG HAS COMPLETED ITS TASKS.

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6. COMMENT: DURING THE BUDGET DISCUSSIONS, BRAZIL ACKNOWLEDGED "CORRIDOR TALK" TO THE EFFECT THAT TCDC INITIALLY STANDS TO BENEFIT ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES WHICH ARE CLEARLY BETTER OFF THAN MOST LDCS. ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, YUGOSLAVIA AND INDIA ARE TAKING PROMINENT ROLES IN THE DEBATE THUS UNDERCUTTING THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF BRAZIL'S DENIALS. THERE IS A GROWING FEELING AMONG THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS THAT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL WIN COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT WITH THE ONLY CAVE AT BEING A SUGGESTION THAT THE ACABQ LOOK CLOSELY AT THE RATIONALE FOR PERSONNEL, TRAVEL AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. SCRANTON

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